

2011-2012 Weekly Field Reports

Copacabana, King George Island

Volume 20
February 27, 2012

Science Report:

1. **Giant Petrels:** We completed our southern giant petrel chick census and banding at Copa and Point Thomas this week. The Point Thomas colony had a 54% hatching success, lower than the 30-year average of 68%. The Copa colonies had only a 14% hatching success, significantly lower than 30-year average of 66%. This low success is probably due to the poor food availability in the local marine environment this year, similar to what the fish-dependent skuas experienced.

Weather:

The weather was fairly consistent throughout the week until Sunday (3/4), with overcast sky, wind blowing 15-20 mph, and no precipitation. Sunday morning the clouds cleared and it was sunny and warm until late evening, when the winds picked up and heavy rain set in, lasting throughout the night. Temperatures were unusually warm, ranging from 39-45° F.

Other Camp News:

We finished entering and archiving the data we collected over the season and have begun the hut closing procedures, anticipating our pick-up by the National Science Foundation (NSF) ship the Laurence M. Gould on Wednesday, March 7th.

The 2011-12 Copa Field Team
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